

To: EOC Public Information[EOC_Public_Information@epa.gov]
Cc: Ostrander, David[Ostrander.David@epa.gov]; StClair, Christie[StClair.Christie@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Wed 9/16/2015 6:00:51 PM
Subject: RE: cell/sat phone coverage

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Thanks ng

From: StClair, Christie **On Behalf Of** EOC Public Information
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 1:44 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy
Subject: cell/sat phone coverage

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Environmental Restoration's Site Health and Safety Plan required the work team to have a mobile telephone, two-way radios, and vehicle horns/air horn. (See page 23 of the plan, which is posted online here:

<http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-08/documents/08-1573793.pdf>)

At the time of the 3,000,000 gallon release, the road was destroyed and the EPA crew was trapped with no cell phone coverage (there is no cell phone coverage at the mine).

The EPA crew radioed to an EPA ERRS contractor who was off-site to notify him of the situation. The contractor contacted a team from the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS) who had been assisting EPA at Gold King Mine but who were off-site at that time. EPA and DRMS personnel then communicated via radio and the OSC instructed DRMS to make notifications.

Although not required in the work plan, the work team also was equipped with a satellite phone. The day of the release, the subcontractor working with the mine team was given the satellite phone because they were conducting underground operations at the nearby Red and Bonita Mine. Due to the higher safety risk to these personnel working inside a mine, it was determined they should have custody of the satellite phone in case of emergency.

Since the release, EPA has set up enhanced communication procedures for the mine site and the EPA Command Post located approximately 7 miles east of Silverton.

- EPA has staged a Communications Truck at this location which has a satellite dish and two Voice Over IP phones routed through the dish.
- There are VHF radios located in the Communications Truck, an 800 mega-hertz radio compatible with the State of Colorado and federally designated emergency frequencies, as well as an interoperability system to tie the radios together.
- This location does not have reliable cell phone coverage; however, EPA has a short range device that allows limited cellular use over the satellite system within approximately 30 feet of the Communications Truck.

EOC PIO

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